

REMARKS

Claims 86-115 remain pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as set forth at pages 2-6 of the Official Action dated April 19, 2005, are respectfully believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above.

In Claim 86, step (b) has been amended to specify a selection step and step (c) has been added, which recites a culturing step. In addition, Applicants note the discussion of the amino acid at page 2, lines 31-39 of the specification. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as set forth at pages 2-6 of the Official Action dated April 19, 2005, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 103 is directed to an isolated cell obtained by the method of Claim 86 and which has a mutation in the gene according to the tRNA synthetase. Claim 103 does not encompass any mutant of any gene that will compensate for the loss of the essential gene product. In such an isolated cell, the compensation for the loss of the essential gene product is due to the mutation occurring in the tRNA synthetase gene, like in the examples provided in the present specification with respect to strains  $\beta$ 5366,  $\beta$ 8144,  $\beta$ 8146,  $\beta$ 5479,  $\beta$ 5485 and  $\beta$ 5486. Those strains are recited in Claim 106, which depends from Claim 103. In view of the foregoing, the written description requirement is satisfied. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 86, 108 and 118 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendments to those claims submitted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/830,669  
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2005

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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